As to the working of the Village Panchayat Regulation, I have already said that Government have under consideration the draft rules under that Regulation.

Your ninth subject is one that has frightened me a bit. Even as it is, in the matter of appointments to Government service, we have conflicting claims of different communities. I never thought that the different parts of Travancore would also come forward as conflicting claimants in the matter of appointments to Government service. It never struck me that South Travancore would complain of North Travancore having had preferential treatment at the hands of Government in the matter of appointments.

MEMBER: We have no communal differences in South Travancore.

DEWAN: That is why I said that you are bringing in a new ground of conflict in the matter. We had till now only communal differences. Now you bring local or provincial differences also. I may assure you that the Government have absolutely no intention of bringing in that apple of discord also into the administration.

Your other point is about the reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. There are other members also speaking about that; and I shall give you a reply tomorrow after hearing them as well.

Your last point is that some opportunity might be given to the members of this Assembly to discuss subjects with the Heads of Departments before those subjects are disposed of by Government. The one wrong assumption in that request is that in the replies given to the members at the meetings of this Assembly it is the notes obtained from the Heads of the Departments that decide the points. What the Heads of Departments—as I explained on a previous day—are asked to do is to give all the facts in relation to the subjects and their full history. Decisions are arrived at by Government and not dictated or advised by the Heads of Departments. I shall consider the feasibility of your suggestion that, in cases of doubt, opportunities might be given to you of meeting the Heads of Departments and discussing with them.

168. Ezhavas and Public Service.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Nominated*) said that special concessions were shown to the Ezhava community in the nomination of members to the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Similar concessions should be shown in the matter of representation in public service. Schools remained closed to Ezhavas until a few years ago. When they were thrown open, fees were raised enormously. In consequence, the members of poor communities, like the Ezhavas, had to make great sacrifices to educate their children.

Government would do well to follow the British Indian practice in regard to the representation of the various communities in public service.

In the Ezhava community, there were 100 graduates in arts and science, 50 graduates in law and 3 graduates in medicine, who were unemployed.

There was only one Ezhava officer in the Judicial Department. The community should be represented in the High Court and in the Law's Delays Committee.

Ezhavas should be appointed more freely in the Excise, Police, Registration, Revenue, Anchal and Education Departments. There was not even a single Ezhava in the higher ranks of those departments.

DEWAN'S REPLY. Mr. Sankaran, നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഗൗരവമായി പരിഗണിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

[The points urged in the representation will be carefully considered.]

169. Representation of Makkathayi Tamil Ezhavas in public service.

MR. R. RAMASWAMI (*Nominated*) spoke about the need for adequate representation of *makkattayi* Tamil Ezhavas in the public service. He said that his community was very backward in education and that there were only two graduates in it. But it was deplorable that one of them, a graduate in law with 14 years of service, was still a clerk in the Secretariat, while the other was only holding an acting appointment in the subordinate ranks of the Excise Department. As the community was very backward in education, the qualified members should be adequately encouraged in the public service and those who did not possess examination qualifications should be entertained in the lower ranks of the Land Revenue, Excise, Judicial, Police, Co-operative, Anchal and other departments.

With a view to the advancement of education among the Tamil Ezhavas, pupils of that community should be given half-fee concessions in schools.

Lastly, a seat should be reserved in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly for Tamil Ezhavas.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ramaswami, I have given replies to several representations similar to yours that the minority communities cannot expect to have their representatives nominated every year, because there are several such communities. But, I do not think you can call yourself a minor community unless you divide the Ezhava community into Tamil and Malayali Ezhavas. That does not appear to be a division that is recognised ; but, if you want to make that division, you can call yourself a minor community.

In regard to recruitment to public service, I have already said that there is nothing against the members of any community being entertained in public service, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two departments. As you yourself say, there are only two graduates in your